

OJCS # 1541-74

Dr. Lewis M. Branscomb
 Vice President and Chief Scientist
 International Business Machines Corporation
 Armonk, New York 10504

Dear Dr. Branscomb:

The Agency has made significant progress in using technology in the intelligence process, but I believe we can do more, particularly in the use of computers to help intelligence analysts. I recently received an internal proposal called SAFK for a network of analyst terminals and computers which could significantly improve the value and timeliness of intelligence products.

Because of the continuing interest in information processing shown by the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, Mr. John Griffith, an advisor to the Board and a member of your Staff, has kept in touch with my information systems people and has occasionally put them in contact with you and others in IBM with common interests. Because of the size and scope of the SAFK proposal, Mr. Griffith was again asked for help: is there experience in IBM relevant to the major system architecture issues which we now face in designing the SAFK network?

The answer appears to be yes, and to the extent that this is true, I would appreciate your help in putting my people in touch with yours.

I believe we are at an important crossroads in techniques of intelligence analysis. The tools we use must be the best we can find with the funds we have. Your help could make a difference in the rate of our progress.

Sincerely,

William E. Colby
 Director

cc: [redacted]

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SUBJECT: Letter to Dr. Lewis M. Branscomb, IBM

STATINTL

ORIGINATOR:



ter Support

5 May 74
Date

CONCUR:

Deputy Director for Administration

Date

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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SUBJECT: (Optional)

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11. DD/A 74-4374: Proposed ltr to Dr. Lewis M. Branscomb fr DCI re SAFE				
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IBM has under development its next generation of computer equipment. The decisions they have made on their new systems, particularly the way they will exploit the new component technologies, will have a profound effect on the computer industry and its customers. Because of anti-trust and other considerations, IBM has imposed extraordinary restrictions on the disclosure of information about these new systems. In similar situations in the past, we have been able to get such restrictions lifted when necessary. The letter to Dr. Branscomb (biography attached) is appropriate in this case because of the unusual IBM concern noted above. Our interests lie not so much in getting advanced knowledge to help us pick the SAFE computers (though that would be useful), but in using IBM experience in making the necessary systems decisions to save us some time and effort where our SAFE and other goals match theirs.

This has been coordinated with CRS. Mr. Griffith of IBM believes his management will approve the request.

Correspondence relating to a previous review of IBM technology is attached.